

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving a copy of the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2003 on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Yatsuzuka et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,138,459 (hereinafter "Yatsuzuka"). The claims are amended herein as discussed hereinbelow.

Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, a movable core disposed in the space opposite the teeth to reciprocate transversely to the teeth, said movable core having a plurality of first permanent magnets at axially opposite ends for providing a respective plurality of pairs of magnetic poles on a peripheral surface of each end thereof to face the surfaces of the teeth and a magnet shielding plate disposed at axially middle portion thereof to magnetically separate the permanent magnets disposed at one end thereof from the permanent magnets disposed at the other end thereof. Claim 2 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, a movable core disposed to be able to reciprocate along an axial direction, the movable core having magnetically shielding means for suppressing generation of a magnetic field and a plurality of pairs of permanent magnets respectively disposed on the opposite sides of the shielding means in the

axial direction to provide a plurality of pairs of magnetic poles on a peripheral surface of each end thereof to face the surfaces of the magnetic teeth.

Yatsuzuka fails to disclose or suggest "a movable core having a plurality of first permanent magnets at axially opposite ends for respectively providing a plurality of pairs of magnetic poles on a peripheral surface of each end thereof to face the surfaces of the teeth and a magnet shielding plate disposed at axially middle portion thereof to magnetically separate the permanent magnets disposed at one end thereof from the permanent magnets disposed at the other end thereof". Instead Yatsuzuka, at best, describes only permanent magnets 122 for providing magnetic poles N and S. Because the permanent magnets 122 are embedded in each plunger 123 (col.4, lines 24-25), which is formed as a single body (col. 4, lines 7-8), Yatsuzuka necessarily fails to disclose or suggest elements of the claimed invention such as, for example, the claimed magnetic shielding plate.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove, a *prima facie* case of anticipation cannot properly be sustained in that the applied reference fails to disclose all the claimed features as required. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 and 2 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-7, by virtue of depending from independent claims 1 and 2, are allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove. It is respectfully requested therefore that the rejection of claims 3, 4 and 6-7 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yatsuzuka in view of Yarr et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,389,844. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8-11, by virtue of depending from claims 1 and 2, are allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 8-11 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

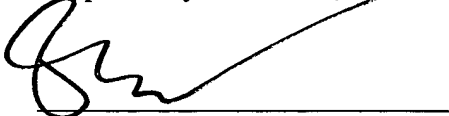
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yatsuzuka in view of Hazelton, U.S. Patent No. 6,313,551. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5, by virtue of depending from claim 2, is allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 2. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 5 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

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